



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

~ where everyone is welcome ~

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

8:00 A.M. Eucharist, Rite One

HOPE

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Psalms 130:5

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Introduction: Week One

Advent is a time of joyful expectation of the coming of the Lord. It is a time of conversion and renewal, a time of watching and waiting, a time of new beginnings, a time to experience the power of God. It is above all else a time of hope, peace, and joy. One of the most beautiful symbols of the Advent season is the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath carries with it many rich symbols. The circle represents eternity. A circle has no beginning and no end, just as God's love and forgiveness have no beginning and no end. The evergreen symbolizes life, hope, and growth, because it is always green. The candles symbolize the light that the Gospel has brought into the world. With this light we should look into ourselves and recognize our need for the coming of Christ. At this time, we will have the lighting of the first candle.

Reading for Week One

The first candle we light will help us to remember that we always need to watch for Christ's coming. Just as the people waited for the first coming of Christ, we also wait for his second coming. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says:

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Let us Pray: Father of lights, today we begin our time of preparation for the birthday of your Son. May the light of this candle remind us that you have given hope to a people who have walked in darkness. As we look upon this candle may we remember that we are to always watch and wait for your coming with hope. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 61 - "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us

1. *'Sleepers, wake!' A voice astounds us,
the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
'Awake, Jerusalem, arise!'
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
'The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share.'*
2. *Zion hears the watchmen singing;
her heart with joyful hope is springing,
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, Incarnate Word,
Alleluia! We follow all and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall.*
3. *Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King;
for ever let our praises ring.*

WELCOME AND ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Hymnal S-89

<i>Kyrie eleison</i>	<i>Christe eleison</i>	<i>Kyrie eleison</i>
<i>Kyrie eleison</i>	<i>Christe eleison</i>	<i>Kyrie eleison</i>
<i>Kyrie eleison</i>	<i>Christe eleison</i>	<i>Kyrie eleison</i>

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

I was glad when they said to me, *
 “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Now our feet are standing *
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city *
 that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, *
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgment, *
 the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
 “May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls *
 and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions’ sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, *
 I will seek to do you good.”

A READING FROM PAUL’S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN 57 - Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

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| <p>1. <i>Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!</i></p> <p>4. <i>Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.</i></p> |
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THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, Lord Christ.

SERMON - Fr. Ralph

THE NICENE CREED (Standing as you are able.)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we keep awake for the coming of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who prepares a light for our path.

For the coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Wisdom to teach and guide us.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the coming of Emmanuel, the hope of all people.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

For the peace of the world, and for our unity in Christ.

Hear us, Lord.

For the church throughout the world and the faithful in every place.

Hear us, Lord.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, Héctor, and Brian, our Bishops; Ralph, our Priest; Nancy, our Deacon; our Calvary family; and for all the holy people of God.

Hear us, Lord.

For the leaders of the nations and all in authority.

Hear us, Lord.

For justice, peace, and freedom among peoples of the earth.

Hear us, Lord.

For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for those we name now, either silently or aloud. (*pause*)

Hear us, Lord.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially _____ and those we name now, either silently or aloud. (*pause*)

Hear us, Lord.

For those who rest in Christ, especially _____ and those we name now, either silently or aloud. (*pause*)

Hear us, Lord.

For our deliverance from all afflictions, strife, and need.

Come, O Lord, and save us.

Joining our voices with the blessed Virgin Mary and with all the saints and angels of God, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

CONFESSION OF SIN (*The people may kneel or stand.*)

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE (*Standing as you are able.*)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM - When Stars Fall down

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| 1. <i>When stars fall down from shattered skies,
as night eclipses day and mountains quake,
a prophet cries,
“Keep Watch! Prepare the way!”</i> | 3. <i>The Light will soon expose the power
that leads the world astray.
A witness marks that crucial hour:
“He Comes! Prepare the way!”</i> |
| 2. <i>The paths we make are rough and bent;
they crumble and decay.
Yet still the voice that God has sent
Calls out “Prepare the way!”</i> | 4. <i>An angel makes a strange decree
while Mary starts to pray.
Perplexed, she asks, “How can it be?”
Her faith prepares the way.</i> |

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer II, BCP 340

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. (*the priest adds a Proper Preface*)

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
 Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
 Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
 Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to pray,

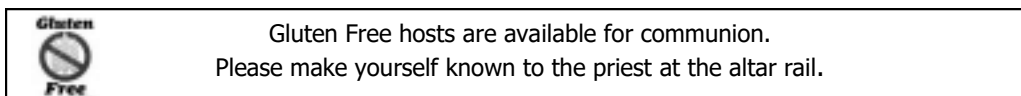
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.



If you have a special prayer need, step into the side chapel after you receive communion, and a member of the Prayer Team will pray with you.

COMMUNION HYMN 306 - Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

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| <p>1. Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest;
 <i>nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
 thyself at thine own board make manifest
 in this our sacrament of bread and wine</i></p> <p>2. We meet as in the upper room they met;
 <i>thou at the table, blessing, yet dost stand:
 "This is my body": so thou givest yet;
 faith still receives the cup as from thy hand.</i></p> | <p>3. One body we, one Body who partake,
 <i>one Church united in communion blest;
 one name we bear, one Bread of life we break,
 with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.</i></p> <p>4. One with each other, Lord, and one in thee,
 <i>who art one Saviour and one living Head;
 then open thou our eyes that we may see;
 be known to us in breaking of the Bread.</i></p> |
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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** (*these words may differ from time to time*)

RECESSIONAL HYMN 56 - **O come, O come Emmanuel** (verses 1-3)

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

REFRAIN:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!**

2. **O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.**

3. **O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law,
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. (*these words may differ from time to time*)
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY
THE CALVARY FAMILY IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE 21-YEAR MINISTRY OF CHRISTINA
AND BILL DAW TO THE CALVARY THANKSGIVING FEAST.**

Please Sign Up To Donate Altar Flowers

Enhance Our Worship + Thank God + Remember A Loved One

Flower offerings may be done **online** at calvaryrichmond.org under **giving/altar flowers**.

The cost is \$50, to be paid in advance. Please call the church office with questions.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

It's time to order the poinsettias that add to the beauty of our church at Christmas. The suggested donation is \$20 per plant. Order forms are available in your bulletin.

CALVARY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service

10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes

or

The Rev. Ralph Morgan

713-818-6323

281-797-5246

nwilkes@ces-richmond.org

rmorgan@ces-richmond.org

CALVARY STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

PLEDGED AMOUNT FOR 2025: \$561,310

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING: \$499,350